"PROTECTION"

513

Alors que les copains mettent au point un énième plan alambiqué pour réunir Marinette et Adrien, Lila utilise ses talents de manipulatrice pour faire croire à Kagami que Marinette est une menteuse qui profite de la gentillesse de tout le monde. Choquée, Kagami est akumatisée en Riposte +. Elle s'attaque à Marinette au moment même où Adrien avait réussi à faire en sorte qu'elle se sente bien avec lui. Le poison du mensonge répandu par Lila va-t-il réussir à ruiner l'amitié entre Kagami, Marinette et Adrien ?

As the gang comes up with yet another overcomplicated plan to bring Marinette and Adrien together , Lila uses her talent for manipulation to persuade Kagami that Marinette is a liar who abuses everyone else's kindness . Shocked , Kagami is akumatized into Riposte +. She lays into Marinette at the very moment when Adrien had managed to finally make her feel comfortable around him. Will Lila's poisonous lie ruin the friendship between Kagami, Marinette and Adrien?

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1 **EXT. TUILERIES GARDEN - DAY**

Kagami and Lila are sitting on a bench. Practice is over. Kagami wipes her face with a towel. Lila hands Kagami a bottle of water.

1 LILA
Here! You need to hydrate more, you know.

2 KAGAMI
Thanks.

Kagami drinks. An alarm goes off on her phone. She takes her bag and gets up.

3 KAGAMI (CONT'D)
It's time. I'm sorry. I have to go meet the others.

4 LILA
You don't have to apologize. It's not all your faults that Marinette hates me for no reason. Just go!

As Kagami walks away, she adds:

5 LILA (CONT'D)
I admire you so much, you know.

Kagami stops, intrigued.

6 LILA (CONT'D)
I don't know how you do it. I too was in love with a boy, once. When he didn't want to see me anymore, I was in pain for so long! I couldn't get him out of my head. But you managed to turn your love for Adrien into a friendship. You even helped Marinette get closer to him. If it hadn't been for your big heart, none of what's happening today would be happening today! You're so perfect, Kagami... I'm proud to have you as my best friend. *

Kagami's moved by this statement.

7 KAGAMI
Best friend? Really?

Lila nods and smiles sweetly at her. Kagami leaves, all smiles.

2 **EXT. TUILERIES GARDEN / POND - DAY**

To help Marinette and Adrien, Marc and Nathaniel have come up with a plan in the form of a comic strip.

They've formed two groups of friends. One, made up of Ivan, Juleka, Rose, Nino and Marc, is in charge of Adrien, to whom Marc hands a copy of the comic book.

8 MARC
All right, that's it! You both finally know that you're in love with each other! Under normal circumstances, this would have been a done deal long ago...

The camera ZIPS TO...

3 **EXT. CONCORDE / FOUNTAIN - DAY**

... the other group, made up of Alya, Zoé, Mylène, Kagami and Nathaniel, who's in charge of Marinette, to whom Nathaniel also hands a copy. Nathaniel and Marc's dialogues complement each other, as if they were speaking in one voice.

9 NATHANIEL
...but since you two lovebirds are the most awkw-- I mean, the shyest kids on earth, Marc and I thought you could use a kick in the-- a little help!

Marinette opens the comic book. We go in.

MANGA INSERT - Shoujou manga-style boxes follow one another, while Marc and Nathaniel's voices alternate in telling the story.

10 MARC (O.S.)
Our plan is to help you live out a magical moment that will make you want to kiss each other, without needing to say a word! So, we've reserved a pod on the Ferris wheel just for the two of you! *

11 NATH' (O.S.)
The *place* will be magical!

12 MARC' (O.S.)
Your pod is programmed to stop at the exact moment the sun sets over the city.

13 NATH' (O.S.)
The *view* will be magical!

14 MARC (O.S.)
There, pigeons trained by Mr. Ramier will release rose petals to rain all around you.

15 NATH' (O.S.)
The *moment* will be magical!

Illustrations: The pod does stop at the top of the Ferris wheel. Rose petals rain down. Marinette and Adrien watch the sun set.

16 ADRIEN (O.S.)
But I'm allergic to pigeons!

17 MARC (O.S.)
There's no risk since you'll be in a pod!
(*A beat*)
A pod streaming Kitty Section's romantic music LIVE!

18 NATH' (O.S.)
Even the ***sound*** will be magical!

19 MARC (O.S.)
It'll finally be kissy-time!

20 NATH' (O.S., INTENSE)
MAAAAAGIC!

Illustrations: Marinette and Adrien look at each other tenderly. They lean towards each other...

21 MARC (O.S.)
A camera will allow us to make sure that everything's going according to plan. And that way, you'll have a photo of your first kiss!

22 NATH' (O.S., EVEN MORE INTENSE)
THE MAGIC OF THE KIIIIISS!

23 MARC (O.S.)
And from there...

24 MARC AND NATH' (O.S., TOGETHER)
...Tadaaa! Perfect love for life!

Illustrations: Marinette and Adrien kiss. <CLICK!> We find Marinette and Adrien as adults, showing the picture to their children and their hamster.

4 **EXT. TUILERIES / CONCORDE - DAY**

End manga. Marinette closes the comic book, perplexed.

Cross cut between, on the one hand, Marinette's group (in orange) and Adrien's group (in green) on the other hand, as if they were replying to each other.

25 MARINETTE
But... I can't kiss him! I mean, of COURSE I want to kiss him! But I haven't even been able to tell him I love him yet! Can't I just hold his hand for starters...

26 NATH'
But that's just it-- if you kiss, you won't have to tell him anything! Kissing is a miracle cure for all your problems!

27 MARC
A kiss can wake up Princesses and bring them back to life! *

28 NINO
It makes the birds sing and the squirrels dance!

29 MARC
So, you two just turn off your brains, follow the comic book, kiss each other and that's it, end of the show, everything is magically sorted out!

30 NATH'
Hence the name: magic kiss!

Marinette is skeptical.

31 MARINETTE
I'm not so sure. What are you basing that on?

32 MARC
Just about every fairy tale, shoujou manga and Hollywood romantic comedy ever!

The candid Adrien looks surprised.

33 ADRIEN
Oh? And it works in real life too? Who knew!

34 MARINETTE
But what if I need to get out?

On Adrien looking bothered.

35 ADRIEN
What if Marinette wants to leave? I wouldn't want her to feel cornered or pressured into anything...

36 MARC
But that's the whole idea of the magic kiss! You can't escape it! You can't escape destiny!

Marinette turns towards Kagami.

37 MARINETTE
I don't know... Can't we just wait for things to happen in their own time?

Kagami gives her a knowing smile.

38 KAGAMI
If you're waiting for Adrien to do something, then you can be certain nothing will happen.

An embarrassed Marinette looks down to take one last look at the comic book.

Adrien does the same.

CUT TO -

5 **INT. FERRIS WHEEL / PODS - EVENING**

We find them both sitting side by side in the same position, head down, looking embarrassed.

39 ROSE (OVER SPEAKERS)
One, Two, Three, Four!

INSERT - In the next pod is the group led by Nathaniel, with Ivan, Juleka, Rose, and Nino. Nino is standing in for Luka on guitar. They start playing. But the pod is too small for them and their instruments. Not only do they get in each other's way, but Nino can't play! It's a sheer sonic mess!

40 NATH'
Stop! Stop!

They stop playing.

41 NATH' (CONT'D)
Nino, have you never touched a guitar before?!

42 NINO
Uh, no dude, this is my very first time.

BACK TO - Marinette and Adrien, increasingly embarrassed.

43 NATH'(OVER SPEAKERS)
Huh!? Then why did you volunteer to replace Luka?

44 NINO (OVER SPEAKERS)
Well... It didn't look so hard when he was playing it!

INSERT - Packed into a nearby pod, the other friends (Alya, Zoé, Mylène, Kagami and Marc) cheer Marinette and Adrien on on their screen as if they were watching a sports game.

45 MARC
It's no big deal! It's okay. Stay focused!

46 ALYA
You can do this!

BACK TO - Over the speakers, Marc starts the countdown to the magic kiss:

47 MARC (OVER SPEAKERS)
Kiss in 9... 8... 7...

This whole circus, far from freeing Marinette and Adrien, only paralyzes them. They turn to the camera:

48 MARINETTE/ADRIEN
Can we get off now?

The others, unanimously:

49 ALL (OVER SPEAKERS)
NO!

50 MARC (OVER SPEAKERS)
3... 2... 1...

Zero -- time for the magic kiss! The pod stops, facing the setting sun. The pigeons release their rose petals. Flashes are triggered to capture the moment... But Marinette and Adrien remain desperately frozen, looking down.

6 **INT. FERRIS WHEEL - EVENING**

Adrien and Marinette, looking defeated, climb out of the pod and join the others – they look dismayed too.

51 MARC
That's okay, we'll find something else...

Marinette apologizes to everyone:

52 MARINETTE
Don't bother. It's not you, it's me... I don't have the magic in me!

She runs away, leaving the distraught Adrien on the spot.

FADE TO BLACK.

7 **INT. AGRESTE MANSION - LIVING ROOM - DAY**

Gabriel wants to pour Mrs. Tsurugi some more tea.

53 GABRIEL
More tea?

54 MRS. TSURUGI
Don't change the subject, Gabriel-san. Why are you so anxious to move up the date of the Diamonds' Ball?

Gabriel doesn’t want to reveal the real reason.

55 GABRIEL
Oh, it's just... A scheduling issue!

But Mrs. Tsurugi can tell he's lying.

56 MRS. TSURUGI
Your lies show an unacceptable lack of respect!

57 GABRIEL
I'm not lying!

She grabs his arm.

58 MRS TSURUGI
Your heart beats louder than a Taiko Drum! Why do you want to move up the date?

Gabriel break free, in pain. Unmasked, he rolls up his sleeve to reveal the traces of Cat Noir’s cataclysm that are turning his body gangrenous.

59 GABRIEL
Because I don't have much time left.

8 **INT. AGRESTE MANSION - KITCHEN - DAY**

Adrien and Kagami are with the Bodyguard – he's preparing a brunch for them with a lot of care. They're talking about what happened the day before.

60 ADRIEN
I've always seen Marinette acting funny in my presence. I thought that was just the way she was. I thought it was sweet. I thought it was part of her charm. But now that I know it's because she loves me and she freaks out about telling me, I feel bad. Because it means that this whole time she's been uncomfortable around me, and I haven't done anything to help her.

61 KAGAMI
But you didn't know.

62 ADRIEN
It doesn't take away from her suffering. I just wish she could feel more at ease when she's with me. Otherwise, one day it'll be too hard for her and she'll give up.

63 KAGAMI
What can I do to help, Adrien?

64 ADRIEN
Thanks but it's not up to you or anyone else to help. I'm the one who's got to do something.

INSERT - On Mrs. Tsurugi -- followed by Gabriel -- who is about to enter the kitchen to pick up her daughter. But Mrs. Tsurugi stops and signals Gabriel to be quiet and listen.

65 ADRIEN (CONT'D)
I can tell that everyone just wants to see us happy together. But it's putting a lot of pressure on us. With or without kissing, the important thing is that we feel good when we're together, right? I'd do anything to make that happen!

Kagami takes Adrien's hand, proud of him.

66 KAGAMI
Looks like your doubts are finally gone.

67 ADRIEN
Yes, Kagami. I'm ready.

INSERT - On Mrs. Tsurugi and Gabriel, delighted as they mistakenly believe that Adrien is talking about him and Kagami.

68 TSURUGI
Made for each other... Just as planned.

69 GABRIEL
Perfection calls for perfection.

Adrien pulls out his phone and starts writing a text for Marinette.

70 KAGAMI
What are you doing?

71 ADRIEN
I'm going to prepare a special picnic, for just the two of us, no friends around, no outside pressure. And I'm inviting Marinette right now. Hopefully she can be herself, and finally open her heart and soul to me, free of her fears.

INSERT - on Mrs. Tsurugi and Gabriel, aghast as they finally realize their misunderstanding: Adrien was actually talking about him and Marinette!

Kagami sees Adrien in a new light. An adventurous, self-confident Adrien. The Adrien she wished she could have been with.

72 KAGAMI
You've changed, Adrien.

73 ADRIEN
Partly thanks to you, Kagami.

He sends the text message.

74 KAGAMI
Marinette is a very lucky girl.

9 **INT. MARINETTE'S ROOM - DAY**

Marinette is still in bed, depressed about last night. Her phone buzzes. She checks it. On the screen, Adrien's profile.

75 TIKKI
A message from Adrien!

Marinette immediately puts the phone down as if it was burning her hands.

76 MARINETTE
Oh, boy! It was just a matter of time -- after last night, he's finally figured out how pathetic I really am, and he's calling it quits!

77 TIKKI
Marinette, you have to take things as they are. Not the way you think they're going to be. Read the message!

Marinette resigns herself and reads the message.

78 TIKKI (CONT'D)
So? What does it say?

79 MARINETTE
He's inviting me over, to his home! Just the two of us!

Her mood changes completely.

80 MARINETTE (CONT'D)
What should I wear? How should I greet him? Should I kiss him on the cheeks or shake his hand? What if there are awkward silences that need to be filled? Oooooh I'm never gonna have time to prepare any talking points!

Seeing Tikki's face, she pulls herself together:

81 MARINETTE (CONT'D)
You're right, Tikki, no more complicated plans! I have to take things as they are! I'm not going to plan anything! In fact, I'm not even going to change my clothes!

82 TIKKI
But Marinette, you're wearing your pajamas!

Marinette startles when she finally realizes what she's wearing, but she sticks to her guns:

83 MARINETTE
Well, precisely! If he really loves me, he'll love me in my pajamas too!

10 **INT. AGRESTE MANSION - LIVING ROOM - DAY**

Mrs. Tsurugi takes Gabriel into the living room to talk quietly.

84 TSURUGI
All our plans are falling apart! You were supposed to control your son, Gabriel!

85 GABRIEL
And you, your daughter!

86 TSURUGI
My daughter is so perfect that she doesn't need me to control her!

87 GABRIEL
Well it appears she does.

88 TSURUGI
It's not my child who's falling for someone completely wrong for her! *

89 GABRIEL
But she seems to be the one encouraging him! *

90 TSURUGI
Take control of your son, and she'll have nothing left to encourage. Organize the Dance as soon as possible. If you fail to capture Ladybug's and Cat Noir's Miraculous, it is imperative that this situation be resolved before you... leave!

11 **INT. AGRESTE MANSION - KITCHEN - DAY**

Tsurugi comes to get her daughter.

91 TSURUGI
Kagami. We're going.

Gabriel stays alone with Adrien.

92 GABRIEL
I didn't know you and Kagami weren't seeing each other anymore.
(MORE)

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
You were such a... perfect couple! It's a shame.

93 ADRIEN
Kagami's pretty perfect, but not perfect for me.

94 GABRIEL
You underestimate yourself. You and Kagami are...of the same design.

95 ADRIEN
I just feel better with Marinette.

96 GABRIEL
You're clinging to Marinette because her mediocrity allows you to shine with less effort. But you're better than that.

97 ADRIEN
There's no-one better than Marinette, Dad!
(*dreamy*)
If only you knew her!
(*A beat*)
She's generous, funny, creative, brave! Mom told me about how you met. You too came from two different worlds, but that didn't stop you from loving each other! Why shouldn't it be the same for Marinette and me?

Gabriel's eyes get emotional as they come to rest on Emilie's portrait. But he ends up shutting himself up and nervously fiddling with his ring, as he does when he's troubled.

98 GABRIEL
Adrien, I'm your father. I know what's best for you, better than you do. That is why I am forbidding you to have any relationship with Marinette Dupain Cheng.

Adrien is shocked. He goes up to his room without a word.

12 **INT. THE TSURUGIS' CAR - DAY**

The atmosphere in the Tsurugis' automatic car is icy. Kagami finally breaks the heavy silence.

99 KAGAMI
I know I've disappointed you, mother. But much to my regret, love cannot be controlled.

100 MRS TSURUGI
Don't try to convince me that you don't love him anymore.

101 KAGAMI
He loves Marinette. And Marinette is my friend. Some knots can't be undone.

102 MRS. TSURUGI
When the knot cannot be undone, the samurai cuts right through it.

13 **INT. ADRIEN'S ROOM - DAY**

Adrien, still in shock, looks blankly at the screen of his phone. Plagg is worried.

103 PLAGG
You're not going to let your father tell you what to do, are you?

But Adrien is too upset to discuss it.

104 ADRIEN
What do you want me to do, Plagg? He's my father...

He just types something and texts Marinette again.

14 **EXT. PLACE DES VOSGES - DAY**

As she walks through the park, Marinette receives Adrien's text message. She reads it aloud to Tikki, hidden in her little bag.

105 MARINETTE
"I'm sorry. You can't come. I can't talk to you."

The kwami is worried:

106 TIKKI
Are you gonna be okay?

Surprisingly, Marinette just turns around nonchalantly.

107 MARINETTE
It's probably because his father wouldn't allow it, again! That's okay, we'll see each other some other time. Nothing to worry about. You have to take things as they are, don't you?

On Tikki looking amused.

15 **INT. NATHALIE'S ROOM - DAY**

Natalie is in bed, her laptop on her lap. Adrien is standing next to the bed, looking down, lost, groggy.

108 ADRIEN
Father forbade me to have any relationship with Marinette.
(MORE)

ADRIEN (CONT'D)
But how am I supposed to do that at school when we're in the same class?

Nathalie is stunned by what Gabriel's ordered her son to do. She takes the time to think about it, look at the wedding ring that Gabriel entrusted to her. She clenches her fist, then, finally assuming the role of a substitute mother, she tells him:

109 NATHALIE
Adrien, listen to me. When it comes to your love life, you're free to decide whatever you want to do. Don't let anyone else tell you how to act. Not now, not ever.

Those words put Adrien's ideas back in place.

110 ADRIEN
You're right, Natalie. I don't know what came over me.

Adrien sends another text.

16 **EXT. MARINETTE'S ROOM - DAY**

Marinette gets the message.

111 MARINETTE
Ah! He's available again! See? He's acting completely randomly— he's perfect for me! And you were right: it doesn't change a thing whether I worry or not! So why worry? Come on, let's go back.

112 TIKKI
Since we're back home, why don't you get changed before we leave again?

113 MARINETTE
No way, my Tikki! What if it breaks the magic of the moment? You start by putting on socks, and the next thing you know, you're making foolish plans again! Life decided that I'd be in my pajamas, so pajamas it is! *

17 **EXT. AGRESTE MANSION - HALL - DAY**

Marinette is about to ring the bell when, much to her surprise, the gate opens on its own. In the distance, on the stoop, Adrien beckons her to come in discreetly with a playful smile.

18 **INT. AGRESTE MANSION - ENTRANCE HALL - DAY**

Adrien takes Marinette's hand and leads her across the hall stealthily, passing in front of Gabriel's closed study.

19 **INT. AGRESTE MANSION - KITCHEN - DAY**

The Gorilla opens the door and gives Adrien a wicker basket, like a picnic basket. Before exiting through the back door to the garden, Adrien looks up and down at Marinette. She begins to wonder whether showing up in her pajamas was such a good idea...

114 ADRIEN
I forgot something... Don't go anywhere!

He shoves the basket in her hands and runs out of the kitchen.

Ellipsis. He comes back in his pajamas too.

115 ADRIEN (CONT'D)
It's better this way!

She smiles. He really is wonderful. He leads her into the garden.

20 **EXT. AGRESTE MANSION - GARDEN - DAY**

On Marinette looking in wonder.

116 MARINETTE
Wooooooow!

We discover what Adrien has prepared for her: an amazing lovers' picnic! On the blanket spread out on the ground in the middle of flower petals, are some soft cushions on which he sits Marinette down, and a profusion of delicious little dishes. Marinette wonders what the picnic basket is for.

117 MARINETTE (CONT'D)
But then... What's in there?

118 ADRIEN
Take a look!

She opens the basket. Her eyes light up. Inside, two joysticks, a pico-projector, a portable console and dozens of video games.

119 MARINETTE
Whoaaa!

A tiny moment of doubt.

120 ADRIEN
Ah, hmm, maybe you'd rather have watched a movie?

She throws a controller to him, eager to play.

121 MARINETTE
You're kidding, right?

Adrien sets up and turns on the projector.

21 **INT. GABRIEL'S STUDY - DAY**

Gabriel hears laughter outside. He looks out the window. Looks stunned! Marinette and Adrien are having a great time in the garden (where Gabriel and Emily were seen having a picnic in episode 501).

How is this possible? Gabriel thinks for a while before the solution becomes obvious:

122 GABRIEL
Nathalie!!!

INT. NATHALIE'S ROOM - DAY

A furious Gabriel confronts Natalie.

123 GABRIEL (CONT'D)
You gave Adrien a counter-order?

124 NATHALIE
The power you have over Adrien doesn't mean you can go that far!

Gabriel looks at his wife's ring glowing on Natalie's finger, as if he felt remorse for giving it to her. Nevertheless, as Marinette and Adrien's laughter echoes outside, he just takes it upon himself, anxious not to alienate Natalie.

125 GABRIEL
You were right, Natalie.

But he hasn't said his last word.

22 **EXT. CANAL SAINT-MARTIN - DAY**

Kagami confides her dilemma to Lila.

126 KAGAMI
My mother would like me to get closer to Adrien. And *I* think I've fallen in love with him again. But I don't want to cause them any hurt. They're my friends, and they're obviously meant to be together. I feel so weak for being a victim of my own feelings...

Feigning compassion, Lila takes Kagami in her arms. An evil smile creeps up on her face — Kagami can't see it.

127 LILA
It must be so hard! But just know that I'll always be here for you.

But at the same time, behind Kagami's back, she triggers her Alliance's ringtone.

128 LILA (CONT'D)
Oh! I'm sorry, I have to take this, I'll be right back.

Lila takes a few steps away to contact Gabriel Agreste without Kagami seeing. But evil minds think alike, and Gabriel is already calling her. She picks up.

129 LILA (CONT'D)
Mr. Agreste! I was just about to call you!

23 **EXT. CANAL SAINT-MARTIN / INT. GABRIEL'S STUDY - DAY**

Cross cut: Gabriel in his study and Lila on the canal:

130 GABRIEL (UPSET)
You were supposed to be keeping an eye my son! Most importantly protecting him from toxic people, like this Marinette Dupain Cheng!

131 LILA
Things are already in motion, Sir. I believe you know Kagami Tsurugi?

She looks over her shoulder at Kagami in the distance.

132 LILA (CONT'D)
This young lady needs to be perfect so badly that she sees any emotion she might be feeling as a weakness. And it’s devastating every time! So much so that she’s already fallen prey to Monarch more than once! *

Gabriel scowls. Why is Lila mentioning Monarch? Could it be that she's discovered his secret identity?

133 GABRIEL
What does this have to do with me?

134 LILA
Kagami is in love with your son. This whole story with Marinette and Adrien is breaking her heart. Monarch will probably turn her into a supervillain soon! If Marinette and Adrien learned that their love was hurting their friend, it would inevitably poison their relationship in the end. What a sad situation, don’t you think? Well… maybe not for everyone…

A beat. Gabriel thinks. That diabolical Lila may be right...

135 GABRIEL
All that's left to do is... wait, then?

136 LILA
Exactly. Just wait.

24 **EXT. CANAL SAINT-MARTIN - DAY**

Lila meets Kagami again. She's looking melancholically at the Marinette made for her. Inside, she's slippeda selfie of them, as proof of their friendship.

137 LILA
I'm sorry. That was my mother, she couldn’t remember where she'd put her... Oooh!

She stops when she sees Kagami's sad look. She takes this opportunity to sink her poisonous lying fangs in her victim.

138 LILA (CONT'D)
I wish I didn't have to tell you this, but... I can't stand to see you suffer like this anymore. You can't attach so much importance to your friendship with Marinette. She doesn’t feel the same way. I know this because I have been through such similar pain myself!

139 KAGAMI
What are you talking about? Marinette isn't like that! She's the nicest girl I know; she’s always trying to help others!

140 LILA
That's what she got me to believe, too, at first. Until I finally opened my eyes. If you look closely, it’s not Marinette helping everyone else, it’s everyone else helping Marinette.

Flashback: Kagami remembers all the friends helping Marinette at the beginning.

141 LILA (CONT'D)
She pretends to be weak in order to take advantage of all of you. As a result, you all feel like you have to help her! Poor Adrien... Since you two are no longer a couple, * he’s got no one to protect him. He too has fallen into her clutches without realizing it.

Flashback: Kagami remembers what Adrien said to her in the kitchen.

142 LILA (CONT'D)
Don't you think it's weird that Marinette only ever stutters, faceplants, acts all uncomfortable in front of Adrien?
(MORE)

LILA (CONT'D)
That's because from the beginning, she's set her eyes on him. With people as perfect as you and Adrien, things are bound to work. You're the ones who should be together. You're the ones who belong together.

143 KAGAMI
There's no way... I... I need to talk to Marinette!

144 LILA
Don’t waste your time. Manipulators like her always manage to lie their way out of trouble. And of course, Adrien would stand up for her. Toxic people like that are dangerous, and you just need to get as far away from them as possible, as soon as you can. I know it's terrible, but there's nothing else we can do...

Overwhelmed by the feeling of helplessness, Kagami clenches her magical charm to fight the anger swelling inside her, and the feeling of betrayal.

25 **INT. MONARCH'S LAIR**

Monarch senses Kagami's emotions.

145 MONARCH
Lila Rossi was right. Kagami's emotions are powerful.

He creates a Megakuma and charges his ring with the power of Voyage.

146 MONARCH (CONT'D)
Kaalki! Your power is now mine!

He opens a portal.

147 MONARCH (CONT'D)
Voyage, my Megakuma.

He sends the Megakuma through.

26 **EXT. CANAL SAINT-MARTIN - DAY**

Lila pretends to support Kagami, but actually works to stir up her emotions.

148 LILA
Oh, Kagami, no! You mustn't let yourself get so upset! Not you! You're too perfect!

Lila smiles when she finally sees the Megakuma come out of the portal behind Kagami's back.

Obviously she doesn't warn her. The Megakuma enters Kagami's keychain. Her magical charm breaks. Lila moves aside, falsely shocked.

149 MONARCH
Riposte Prime! I am Monarch. To help you take revenge, I'm giving you back your powers. But this time, to help you cut through the veil of lies, I am also giving you an extra weapon...

Monarch holds Wayzz's ring against the kwami's cage.

150 MONARCH (CONT'D)
Wayzz! Your power is now mine!

He presses his ring to send Kagami the power of the Miraculous of Protection.

151 MONARCH (CONT'D)
Transfer!

Kagami's Alliance receives the power. (green VFX)

152 MONARCH (CONT'D)
I am entrusting you with the essence of the Miraculous of Protection. What good is a sword without a shield?

153 KAGAMI
It's time to unmask Marinette Dupain Cheng.

Kagami transforms into RIPOSTE PRIME.

Her power: her keychain has turned into a katana whose blade can cut through anything. And everything she touches with the tip ends up locked inside a magical shield. The katana is not fused to her arm, unlike it usually is.

27 **EXT. AGRESTE MANSION - GARDEN - DAY**

Marinette and Adrien are lying on their backs looking up at the sky, amidst the remains of the picnic. They're having fun looking for shapes in the clouds. Marinette points at one.

154 MARINETTE
What do you see in that one?

155 ADRIEN
A horse!

He points at another cloud.

156 ADRIEN (CONT'D)
How about that one?

Marinette's P.O.V.: To her, the cloud that Adrien is pointing to represents... Them kissing!

She blushes.

157 MARINETTE
Uuh...

Marinette's hand timidly begins to search for Adrien's hand. They take each other's hand. With their eyes still lost in the clouds, they hold on.

INSERT - Gabriel returns to his study and peers at them from the window, looking stern.

Adrien and Marinette turn towards each other.

158 ADRIEN
Are you sure you're ready?

159 MARINETTE
Yes.

Their faces slowly come together...

INSERT - Gabriel looks up and sees, hidden above Marinette and Adrien, ready to pounce on her prey — Riposte Prime...

Marinette's and Adrien's foreheads are now touching; they're, serene, together and well.

160 ADRIEN
I've never admired the clouds in my pajamas with anyone before....is it always this amazing?

Marinette is moved by this confession.

161 MARINETTE
Adrien... I lo--

162 RIPOSTE PRIME (O.S.)
How convenient!

They both look up and see Riposte Prime perched atop the perimeter wall.

163 RIPOSTE PRIME (O.S.) (CONT'D)
All that awkwardness, all that hesitation that made you so charming... The moment you get what you want, they disappear?

164 MARINETTE/ADRIEN
Kagami?!

165 RIPOSTE PRIME (O.S.)
Don't call me Kagami; I am Riposte Prime!

Riposte Prime jumps and brings down her weapon. Marinette and Adrien have just enough time to roll to the side. Riposte's sword has dug a huge furrow in the ground, tearing the blanket in half.

166 RIPOSTE PRIME (CONT'D)
Adrien! Move away from that liar right now!

INSERT - Gabriel, satisfied, goes back to work as if nothing was going on. Somehow he's already won.

Adrien defends Marinette.

167 ADRIEN
Kagami, we've talked about this! Marinette is finally less afraid now!

168 RIPOSTE PRIME
You naive fool! You pathetic, naive fool! You were too weak to take the initiative when it came to loving me, but now you're ready and willing! Would you have gone this far if it weren't for her little act?

Marinette and Adrien hop up and down with impatience – they both want to leave to turn into their superhero alter egos. The Gorilla appears and, as the perfect bodyguard, throws himself on Riposte Prime. The diversion allows Adrien and Marinette to escape.

Riposte Prime traps the bodyguard inside a magical shield, silvery like her.

169 RIPOSTE PRIME (CONT'D)
Another chump who tried to protect Marinette and is now paying the price!

28 **INT. ADRIEN'S ROOM**

Adrien takes Marinette to his room so she can hide. He points her in the direction of the bathroom.

170 ADRIEN
Hide there, I'll get help!

But Riposte Prime catches them by surprise: she jumps into the room through the window and wields her sword!

171 RIPOSTE PRIME
Too late!

Marinette stands in front of Adrien to protect him.

172 MARINETTE
Kagami, what's happened to you? There has to be some misunderstanding. If I hurt you without realizing it, tell me! I'll do anything to make it up to you!

A beat. Riposte seems touched. But then she scowls.

173 RIPOSTE PRIME
You're good. You almost had me fooled again!

She lunges at them. Adrien barely has time to grab his own sword to block Riposte Prime's.

174 ADRIEN
Run, Marinette!

A fencing duel between Adrien and Riposte Prime starts. Marinette runs away, worried that she has to let Adrien put himself in danger for her. But she has to go into hiding to turn herself into a Ladybug!

But there isn't much plainclothes Adrien can do against an akumatized villain. Riposte Prime eventually hits him and traps him inside a magic shield.

INSERT - Since there can only be one shield at a time, at the same time, in the garden, the Gorilla is released.

BACK TO - Riposte Prime, patting the magical shield in which Adrien is locked up.

175 RIPOSTE PRIME
Stay here, my sweet Adrien. I'm going to take care of Marinette and stop her from hurting everyone else around her. And then we can finally be happy again, you and me.

From inside the shield, Adrien is stunned by this revelation. Is Kagami in love with him again!?

He watches helplessly as Riposte Prime departs. He pounds on the shield.

176 ADRIEN
Kagami! No!

29 **EXT. PLACE DU CHATELET - DAY**

Marinette barely has time to get out of Adrien's house and look around for a place to hide: Riposte Prime springs up and cuts her off.

177 RIPOSTE PRIME
You really are a great actress!

178 MARINETTE
Kagami, listen...

179 RIPOSTE PRIME
Never again!

She traps Marinette inside a magical shield.

INSERT - At the same time, Adrien is released. He rushes into the bathroom to transform into Cat Noir.

180 ADRIEN
We've gotta bring Kagami to her senses... Plagg, claws out!

Adrien transforms into Cat Noir.

BACK TO - Riposte Prime hits the bubble with her sword, as if to test its strength.

181 RIPOSTE PRIME
In here, your little puppy eyes won't fool anyone anymore!

Indeed, as the shield is opaque, no one can see or hear Marinette. But inside, Marinette continues to see the outside world, without being able to communicate with anyone.

182 TIKKI
Turn into Ladybug! Maybe your Lucky Charm will help you get out of this prison!

183 MARINETTE
But then everyone would know that Marinette is Ladybug! I'm stuck!

Cat Noir finally shows up.

184 CAT NOIR
Kagami!

Inside the shield, Marinette becomes hopeful again.

185 MARINETTE
Cat Noir!

Cat Noir tries to reason with Riposte Prime.

186 CAT NOIR
Kagami... We've been on the same side before. You used the Miraculous of the Dragon as Ryûko... Trust me... Put the sword down...

187 BEST RIPSTE
Don't try to manipulate me!

A bitter fencing duel begins.

188 MARINETTE
Oh, kitty, I know you can't hear me, but do what you usually do: cataclysm before you think and it'll be perfect! Please, please, pretty-please!

Cat Noir repels Riposte Prime far enough to have the opportunity to cataclysm the magical shield.

189 CAT NOIR
Cataclysm!

The shield explodes. Marinette is free.

190 CAT NOIR (CONT'D)
Get to safety!

Marinette pretends to be just a normal girl.

191 MARINETTE
Thank you, Cat Noir! Oh! I was so scared!

Riposte Prime becomes furious.

192 RIPOSTE PRIME
Nooo!

She charges towards Marinette to imprison her again, but Cat Noir steps in between them. While they start dueling again, Marinette runs to hide.

193 MARINETTE
Tikki, spots on!

She transforms into Ladybug and triggers her superpower.

194 LADYBUG
Lucky Charm!

She gets... A bottle of olive oil!

195 LADYBUG (CONT'D)
Olive oil? *

She discreetly comes out of her hiding place and perches on a roof so that no one can link Marinette to Ladybug.

196 LADYBUG (CONT'D)
Hi, kittycat!

Cat Noir and Riposte Prime turn to her.

197 CAT NOIR
My Lady, just in time!

A fight breaks between our two heroes and Riposte Prime. *

197A RIPOSTE PRIME *
There's no honor in defending a liar! *

197B CAT NOIR *
We already saved that girl before... She can't be what you say she is... *

197C LADYBUG *
Cat Noir is right! You're mistaken! *

197D RIPOSTE PRIME *
You can't pretend to know someone *
you just crossed paths with! I know *
her better than you do! *

Cat Noir and Ladybug can't say more, for fear of betraying *
their secret identities. *

Ladybug finally figures out how to use her Lucky Charm. *
Ladybug Vision: she spots Cat Noir and Riposte Prime's sword. *

198 LADYBUG *
How about a well-oiled baseball
game?

She throws the bottle. By Reflex, Riposte Prime slices the bottle. She finds herself all oiled up.

199 CAT NOIR
Hey! She ruined our fun!

Cat Noir rushes to Riposte Prime to resume the duel. She wants to start defending herself again, but as the weapon is now coated with oil, it escapes from her hands at the first shock. Ladybug catches her with her yo-yo and breaks it. The megakuma escapes.

200 CAT NOIR (CONT'D)
(Overplaying
disappointment)
Oh, that's such a shame, we didn't
get to play very long!

Ladybug catches it and purifies it.

201 LADYBUG
No more evil-doing for you,
Megakuma! Time to de-evilize!
Gotcha! Bye-bye little butterfly!

Ladybug throws her lucky charm in the air.

202 LADYBUG (CONT'D)
Miraculous Ladybug!

The magic ladybugs repair all the damage.

Riposte Prime turns back into Kagami. Ladybug gives her a magical charm.

203 LADYBUG (CONT'D)
Kagami. Take this magical charm...

But Kagami won't take it.

204 KAGAMI
It won't solve my problems.

Ladybug understands that she's going to have to do things differently to bring Kagami to her senses.

She needs an excuse to leave as soon as possible to take care of her friend. She hides her earrings, still covered in black dots.

205 LADYBUG
Cat Noir! I-- I have... an urgent appointment... I'll leave you to it! Thanks! Bug out! *

She leaves the magical charm to him.

206 CAT NOIR
Oh? Well, uh... bye then...

Not knowing what to do with it, Cat Noir hands it to Kagami, but she still doesn't want it. Cat Noir smiles an embarrassed smile -- he doesn't know what to do.

Pretending to come out of where she had gone to hide, Marinette comes back and helps Kagami to come to her senses.

207 MARINETTE
Kagami! Kagamiiiii!

Kagami gives Marinette a troubled look.

208 CAT NOIR
Well, I'll leave you to it, then...

Cat Noir takes the opportunity to get rid of the magical charm, putting it in Marinette's hand before slipping away. Now alone, Marinette and Kagami exchange a long glance.

209 MARINETTE
What happened to you, Kagami?

210 KAGAMI
Please forgive me, Marinette. Even though you lied to and manipulated me, that did not give me the right to attack you like I did.

211 MARINETTE
Why do you think I would do that all of a sudden? I thought we were friends?

212 KAGAMI
Lila opened my eyes.

This comes as a shock to Marinette.

213 MARINETTE
Lila...

Marinette wants to explain herself.

214 MARINETTE (CONT'D)
Look, I don't know what she told you, but...

Kagami interrupts her.

215 KAGAMI
She warned me that you'd always manipulate your way out with lies.

216 ADRIEN (O.S.)
Then maybe you'll listen to me.

Adrien shows up too.

217 ADRIEN (CONT'D)
Marinette's not a liar or a manipulator. She's brave. Generous. She listens to others. Unlike Lila, her actions prove it every day. And that's why I love her. The same way she loves you.
(a beat)
I'm sure deep down, you can feel it too.

Finally, they both take Kagami in their arms. The hug finally convinces her.

218 KAGAMI
I'm sorry. I let my emotions get the better of me again and cloud my judgment. I'm so weak. Please forgive me.

Marinette puts the magical charm in Kagami's hand and closes it.

219 MARINETTE
Don't try to push your emotions away. Look them in the eye. Acknowledge them. Figure out what they're trying to tell you. And turn them into energy to move forward. That's real strength. Love yourself the way you are...

220 ADRIEN
...Just like we love you the way you are.

Kagami collapses in tears.

221 KAGAMI
I love you both.

Another big group hug. Kagami finally confesses:

222 KAGAMI (CONT'D)
I truly wish you two being in love wasn't so painful to me, but it is.

223 MARINETTE
We're sorry.

224 KAGAMI
It's not your fault...

The three of them stand there for a while, in each other's arms, with tears in their eyes.

30 **EXT. AGRESTE MANSION - GARDEN - EVENING**

Adrien and Marinette are back in the garden. They lie down on the blanket again, as if they wanted to pick up where they left off. But it seems artificial to them. The magic is gone. Adrien takes a chance:

225 ADRIEN
Wanna try again?

Up in the sky, the cloud Marinette is looking at no longer has any particular shape. It's just... just a cloud.

226 MARINETTE
I... I'm going to head home. You're not mad, right?

227 ADRIEN
I understand. It's all right. We have all the time in the world.

Although their trust in each other hasn't been damaged, they part a little sadly.

31 **INT. GABRIEL'S STUDY - EVENING**

Gabriel watches his son remaining alone in the garden, looking satisfied. He congratulates Lila through his Alliance.

228 GABRIEL
The worm is in the fruit. It's only a matter of time before their relationship becomes spoiled.

Lila suggests a new plan:

229 LILA
Why don't you find another partner for your son, so you can control him better?

(She doesn't mention it, but of course she's thinking about herself and Adrien).

230 GABRIEL
I'll think about it.

POSTER PAINT

32 **EXT. TUILERIES GARDEN - EVENING**

Kagami meets with Lila.

231 LILA
Oh, Kagami I was so scared for you! All because of that horrible Mari--

232 KAGAMI
Quiet. I'm going to try to tell you how I feel as best I can.

Lila is caught off guard. Kagami takes a breath.

233 KAGAMI (CONT'D)
I don't know why you think these things about Marinette. I think you're wrong about her. I love Marinette. But I love you, too. I'll still be your friend if your friendship is genuine. But you won't use me against her. I am not a puppet.

Lila takes Kagami in her arms.

234 LILA
Of course I'm being genuine with you. I'm sorry if I ever led you to believe that I was trying to turn you against Marinette. That was never my intention. I just wanted to share my feelings with an open heart... with my best friend!

Kagami is reassured. Behind her back, Lila smiles an evil smile.

End of episode